

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PRETORIA

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 27167

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR CHARGE FROM SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG US EG IS

SUBJ: TALKS WITH ISRAELIS ON AMOCO

1. REQUEST YOU PASS TO FAHMY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME CONCERNING TALKS SEPTEMBER 16-17 BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS AND ISRAELIS CONCERNING AMOCO'S RIGHT TO DRILL IN GULF OF SUEZ:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR ISMAIL: UNDER SECRETARY PHIL HABIB AND ROY ATHERTON HELD TALKS IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 16 AND 17 WITH EPHRAIM EVRON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE U. S. DINITZ CONCERNING AMOCO'S RIGHTS TO DRILL IN THE GULF OF SUEZ. HABIB AND ATHERTON PRESENTED AMOCO'S CASE IN A MANNER WE HOPED WOULD PERMIT A PRACTICAL AND SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM, THEREBY FACILITATING THE IMMEDIATE COMMENCEMENT OF DRILLING BY AMOCO AT SITE 304.1. THE ISRAELIS, AFTER REFERRING OUR POSITION TO THEIR GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION, ADVISED US THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT IT WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION.

I DID NOT FIND THE ISRAELI REPLY RESPONSIVE TO OUR REQUIREMENTS, BUT YOU WILL WELL UNDERSTAND THAT I AM IN SECRET

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NO POSITION TO PRESS THE ISSUE FROM THIS DISTANCE.

WE HAVE AGREED, THEREFORE, THAT I WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WHEN HE IS IN NEW YORK FOR THE OPENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I AM ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO REVIEWING THIS MATTER WITH YOU AND GIVING YOU A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF WHERE MATTERS STAND WHEN WE MEET IN NEW YORK. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL GIVE TIME TO THE ISRAELIS TO REVIEW THE VERY STRONG POSITION WE HAVE TAKEN WITH THEM. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED AN ISRAELI ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH AMOCO ACTIONS TO COMMENCE DRILLING AT SITE 304.1 WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, IS EAST OF ANY EXISTING OPERATING SITES IN THE RAMADAN FIELD. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, AMOCO'S AGREEMENT SPECIFIED IT MUST BEGIN OPERATIONS AT THAT SITE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21, 1976. I AM CONCERNED, PENDING OUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS, THAT THERE BE NO DEADLINES ON FURTHER INCIDENTS THAT COULD MAKE A RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM MORE DIFFICULT, AND I UNDERSTAND AMOCO MAY BE SEEKING FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT AN EXTENSION OF THE SEPTEMBER 21 DATE.

I HOPE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR AMOCO AND THE EGYPTIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY TO OBTAIN SUCH AN EXTENSION. I UNDERSTAND IN FACT THAT THE TERMS OF THEIR CONCESSION MAY MAKE SUCH AN EXTENSION POSSIBLE.

I REGRET WE COULD NOT OBTAIN THE QUICK DECISION ON THIS MATTER WE DESIRED, BUT I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING WITH YOU THE FULL SITUATION ON SEPTEMBER 27.

WARM REGARDS, HENRY END TEXT

3. ADVISE ME AND DEPARTMENT BY FLASH WHEN MESSAGE DELIVERED TO FAHMY.
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, SHIP HARASSMENT, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO27167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: ALSO ONLY - HR
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840086-1736, N760007-0072
From: SECRETARY PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760945/aaaabmqh.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALKS WITH ISRAELIS ON AMOCO
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, PSDC, US, EG, IS, AMOCO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006